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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /058 W
---------- 050601
R 061520Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7573
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
USCINCSO

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 0919

E.O. 11652 - N/A
TAGS: PFOR, ES, US
SUBJECT: REACTION TO KISSINGER SPEECH

REF: SAN SALVADOR 852

1. SALVADORAN REACTION TO THE SECRETARY'S MARCH 1 SPEECH HAS BEEN CHARACTERISTICALLY LIMITED AND LOW-KEY. ALTHOUGH WE DISSEMINATED TEXT TO MEDIA, ASIDE FROM INITIAL AP AND UPI DESPATCHES, PRESS GAVE LITTLE ATTENTION TO THE SPEECH. PRENSA GRAFICA, THE LARGEST CIRCULATION PAPER IN THE COUNTRY, HEADLINED KISSINGER'S "DESIRE TO SEEK DIALOG" BUT ON MARCH 4 EDITORIALLY ACCUSED HIM OF MAKING DIALOG MORE DIFFICULT. THE FOLLOWING DAY, IT RECANTED, TERMING THE SPEECH A "TRUE ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE THE RESUMPTION OF US-LATIN AMERICAN DIALOG." THE RESOLUTION OF THREE KEY PROBLEMS MENTIONED IN THE SPEECH-CUBA, PANAMA AND THE TRADE ACT - WOULD BE "TRULY DECISIVE TO MAINTAIN THE DISPOSITION TO DIALOG IN THE 'SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONCILIATION' THAT KISSINGER MENTIONS..." DIARIO DE HOY, THE OTHER MAJOR DAILY PAPER, HEADLINED KISSINGER'S "REPRIMAND" TO LATIN AMERICAN FOR "STERILE AND ARTIFICIAL CONFRONTATIONS" BUT DID NOT COMMENT EDITORIALLY. DIARIO LATINO TERMED THE SPEECH "SENSATIONAL" AND STATED THAT, BY CLEARING STATING US POSITION ON MAJOR MILTILATERAL ISSUES, IT WOULD ALLOW LATIN AMERICANS TO
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PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR DIALOG.

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2. GOES HAS NOT COMMENTED PUBLICLY ON THE SPEECH. FON MIN BORGONOVO DID GIVE AN INTERVIEW TO VOA MARCH 3 IN WHICH HE SHOWED A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE SECRETARY'S CALL FOR THE NEED FOR BOTH SIDES OF THE NEW DIALOGUE TO REEXAMINE THEIR BASIC POSTURES. BORGONOVO AVOIDED DIRECT RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ON SPECIFIC PROPOSALS OF THE SPEECH, AND INSTEAD TOOK EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO TURN THE QUESTION AROUND SO THAT HE COULD REPEAT HIS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED COMMENTS ON THE NEW TRADE ACT (REFTEL). IN A CONVERSATION WITH AN EMB OFF, ROBERTO HILL, EL SALVADOR'S LEADING FINANCIER, CALLED THE SPEECH THE BEST, MOST FORTHRIGHT STATEMENT ON LA POLICH HE HAS HEARD FROM A US OFFICIAL AND PREDICTED IT WILL IMPROVE THE BUSINESS CLIMATE.
MOSKOWITZ

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